

Withdrawal/Redaction Sheet

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01c. Memcon	Memorandum of Conversation with Prime Minister Mulroney (3 pp.)	9/29/90	(b)(1)	S

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THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

7887



MEMORANDUM OF CONVERSATION

SUBJECT: Meeting with Prime Minister Mulroney of Canada (U)

PARTICIPANTS: The President
James A. Baker, Secretary of State
Brent Scowcroft, Assistant to the President for National Security Affairs
Robert L. Hutchings, Director for European Political Affairs

Brian Mulroney, Prime Minister
Derek Burney, Ambassador to the U.S.

DATE, TIME September 29, 1990, 5:58 - 6:18 p.m.
AND PLACE: Waldorf Astoria Hotel, New York

Prime Minister Mulroney: I want to thank you for coming for the Children's Summit. (U)

The President: I am very pleased to participate. How many will be coming? (U)

Prime Minister Mulroney: There will be up to 70 or 75 heads of government. The co-chair was to have been Mrs. Bhutto. (U)

The President: How do we handle this in our remarks? (Ø)

Prime Minister Mulroney: It is no problem. Traore of Mali is the co-chair. Perhaps I could give you a little background. I know you have a busy schedule, so I will mention just two things. First, the Summit itself will be short and sweet. We come in, and then there will be brief words by me, by Cuellar, and by Salinas. There will be one speaker: that will be you. Your remarks will be followed by a video on the plight of children. Do you know that 15 million children -- that's equal to the population of Florida -- will die next year of entirely preventable diseases? A lot of people are very happy that you will be there. Afterwards, you can just shake a few hands. I know you have a busy day. (Ø)

The President: I anticipate I'll get down there around 11:30 provided they get a budget agreement tonight, which I think they will. It's not very good for me politically. (Ø)

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Prime Minister Mulroney: Your presence will be extremely helpful. That was the first thing. The second is corridor talk, which I wouldn't want repeated. I had lunch today with Kaifu. Queen Noor was pretty straightforward. After a few minutes I got the impression she had something on her mind. I told her the King is not very popular in Washington. I told her that I had never heard the President of the United States make an ungenerous remark about the King, but I characterized the attitude in Washington as "unimpressed" by Jordan's position. (S)

I gave her my opinion: this guy [Saddam Hussein] has got to get out real fast, because the American people will get fed up and take a poke if they're challenged. If so, I said, he wouldn't last fifteen minutes. She asked if this was the widely held view. I said it was the view of the Government of Canada. She asked what would be the face-saver for Saddam Hussein. I said first he has got to signal he's getting out, because while he is still there no one will talk. She asked what kind of signal was needed. I said if he pulled out of Kuwait tomorrow, he could have territorial claims negotiated at the Hague and under the Secretary General of the UN. I gave her an illustration. I had Mugabe in Canada -- not the typical conservative, but a Marxist-Leninist from Zimbabwe. He asked for \$200 million to cover higher prices for oil. He was mad as hell at Saddam Hussein and also at the King of Jordan. The next problem is that the money we're giving him is going to children, so he [Saddam Hussein] is declaring war on children and sucking up resources we need. I told her President Bush hasn't said a bad word ever, but her husband hasn't got many friends. (S)

The President: Did that surprise her? (S)

Prime Minister Mulroney: She asked about differences between Jim Baker and Cheney. I said there was no daylight between them. (S)

The President: What was she getting at? (S)

Prime Minister Mulroney: She said the Foreign Minister of Iraq was meeting today with her husband, and said she must go. I told her if he makes a signal regarding Resolution 661, the Secretary General and Mugabe and moderate Arab leaders could go over. That would be the face-saver. It was on that basis that she said she must call her husband. I told her no one wants to hurt Jordan. We're helping with dollars. So she asked if she could reach me later. (S)

The President: Interesting. Prince Hassan talked about this idea with Jim Baker and Brent Scowcroft. (S)

Secretary Baker: He was hoping there wouldn't be a knee-jerk rejection. I think I know what prompted her to ask about differences between Jim Baker and Cheney. We weighed in on the Amman conference, particularly the outrageous statement of the foreign minister. That may be the reason, because he said he wanted to be sure this came from the very top. (S)

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The President: We're old friends, but she's made comments, and that conference infuriated us. We're trying to help. Mubarak says he was bought off before the invasion. (S)

Secretary Baker: The enmity now among Arabs is bad. (S)

The President: Did she raise Israel? (S)

Prime Minister Mulroney: She just hinted at it. (S)

The President: I am very interested. She wants to see Barbara. Bar is unarmed for this but may learn something. (S)

Prime Minister Mulroney: ^{3.3(b)(6)}

(S)

-- End of Conversation --

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